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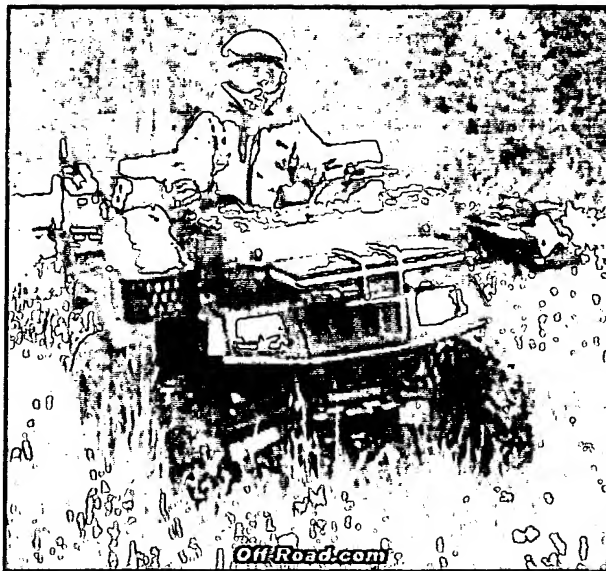
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Tested: 2003 Arctic Cat MRP

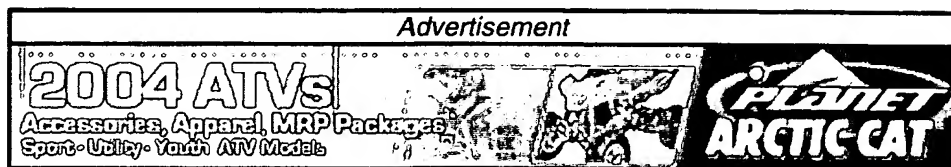
Camping with the MultiRack Platform

Photos and story by Dean Waters

• August 2003

With camping season in full swing, we thought it the perfect opportunity to test the **Arctic Cat Multi-Rack Platform**, also known as "MRP." The MRP system is available on the 650, 500, 400, 300, TBX, and TRV models.

ARCTIC CAT



Just what is the MultiRack Platform? In very simple terms it is a miniature receiver system built into the rack of the ATV. Just like your 2" receiver on your truck only smaller - about 1/2" across - and with small removeable pins that holds the pieces together. To make sure it doesn't rattle, a hard plastic insert resides in each receiver tube. Into that miniature receiver system you can plug in a whole host of accessories to customize your rack. For 2004 there will xxx different accessories available.

To test the MRP system, we obtained the complete camping package on an Arctic Cat Automatic 400 4x4 MRP, and took off for the mountains.

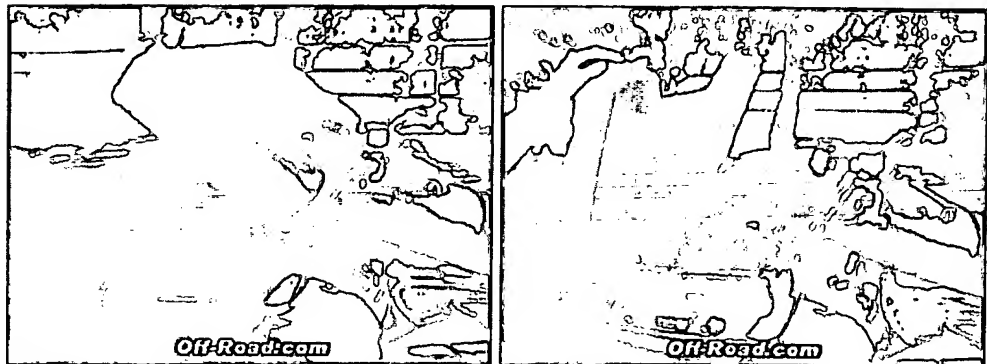
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Camping Package

Just what is the camping package? The 2004 camping package is made up of nine individual MRP accessories. *(We had the 2003 package, which includes the fender box instead of the 11" x 17" carry all and which has the permanent mount for the Cargo Box instead of the new Quick Release Kit.)*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Front Cargo Box - \$199.95 ◦ Cargo Box QR Kit - \$39.95 ◦ Camp Stove Cradle - \$49.95 ◦ Chain Saw Lock - \$89.95 ◦ Expansion Table - \$139.95 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Gear Cradle - \$39.95 ◦ 11 x 17 Carry all - \$49.95 ◦ Bucket holder - \$39.95 ◦ 14 x 25 Carryall - \$59.95
<p>2004 MSRP on Complete Camping package = \$629.55</p>	

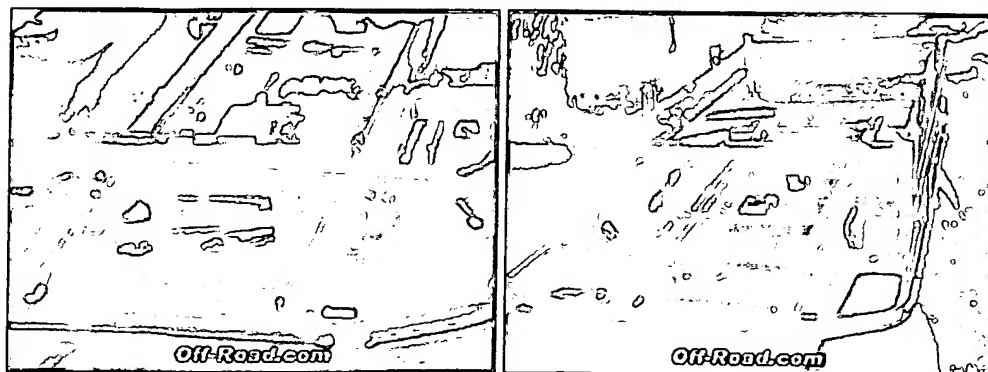


We found the front cargo box to be very useful. It's very deep, and the molded plastic compartments allows you to separate smaller items or gear. One unique feature is that it can be hinged in either direction. Simply place the hinge pins on the side you want. You can even remove the top entirely. It has built-in drink holders on the top, for your trailside breaks or use as a table at camp.

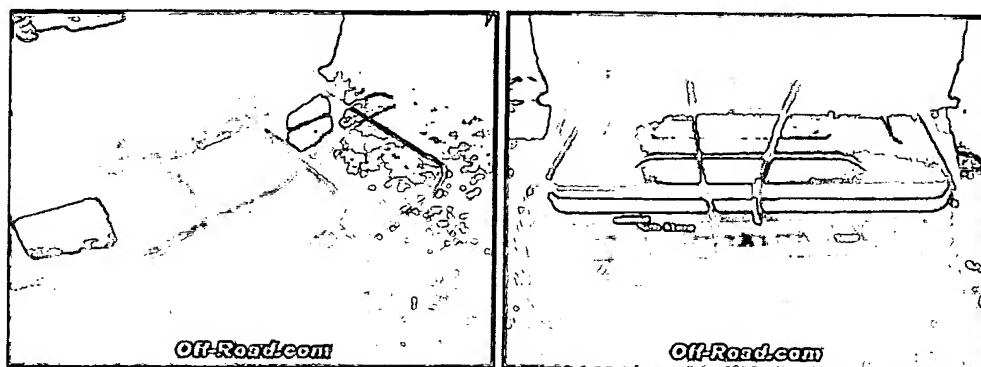
The box measures 33" x 18" x 9". New for 2004 is a Quick Release kit for the cargo box. You lose some visibility over the front of the ATV with the box installed, but we found that we got accustomed to it very quickly and just looked farther down the trail

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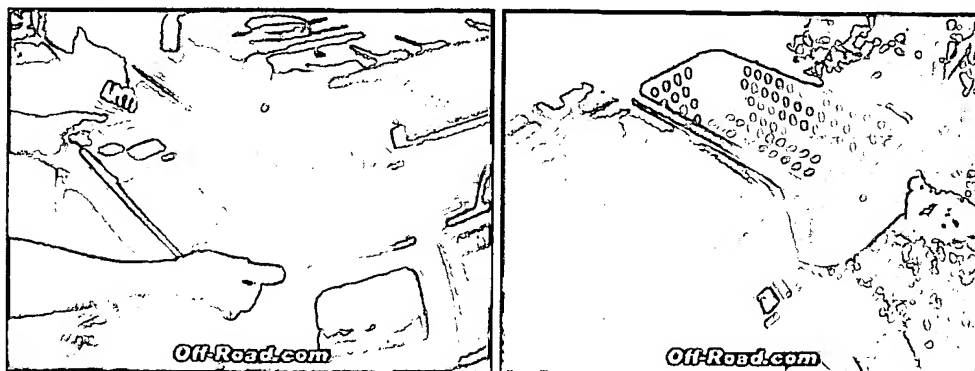
to spot obstacles.



In the back we installed the 14" x 25" carry all. This fits down into four small receivers and is pinned in place. With four pins, this one was a little bit harder to install and remove than some of the other accessories. We sometimes had to tap one or two of the pins out. We found a couple of our 48 qt coolers that fit but our favorite Coleman steel-sided cooler would not quite fit. There are two tie down spots on each side that should hold most anything you want to carry in the carry all.



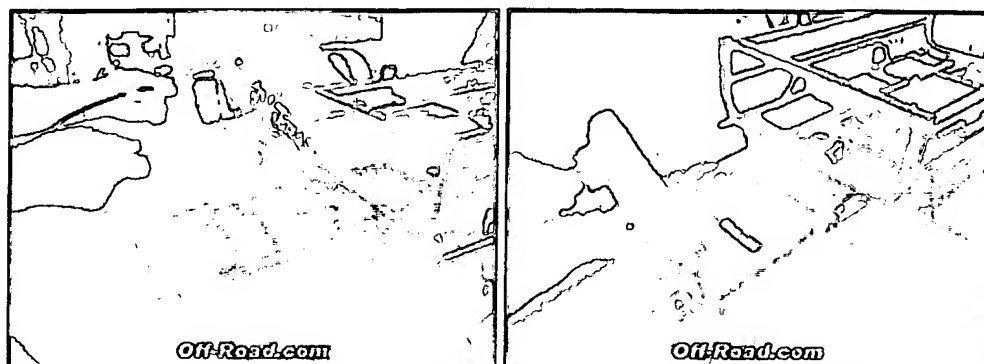
In front of the cargo box we removed the front section of the rack and then installed the camp stove cradle. The cradle is made to fit the Coleman 92210-570 series grills. The stove fit and tied down securely with one bungee. It was definitely convenient for cooking. If you've ever grilled on the ground outside your tent, you appreciate getting food up off "bug level." We were a little hesitant to hit the trail too hard with the grill hanging out there - would be best to get to camp and unload it then go for your adventuring, or let others lead the way to clear the trail.



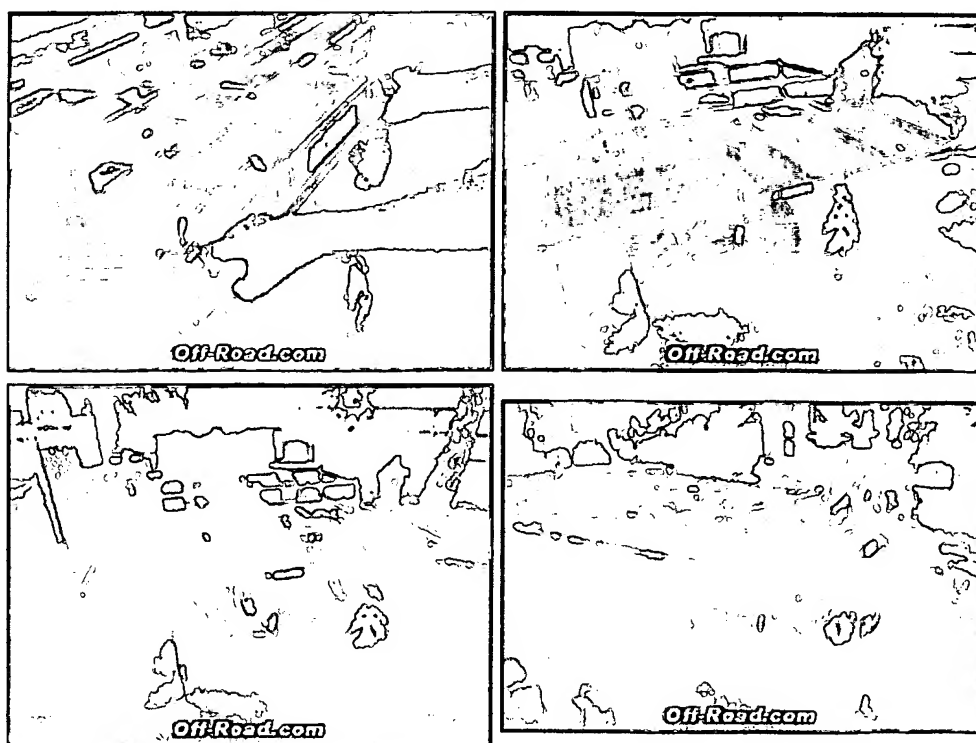
Now you can remove each side piece on the front rack. On one side we installed the

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fenderbox and on the other side we installed the cradle for a collapsable camp chair. Each attached with two pins. We were able to fit our Coleman Exponent sleeping bag and Coleman Exponent tent into the fender box. We found the fender box to be extremely handy when we wanted to carry tools or smaller items around the farm, for quick access without messing with tiedowns or storage bins. However, when camping, you need to be aware of the width of the trail when you start adding the side accessories. The fender box and cradle added a good 6-8" on each side of the ATV. If you have to travel through a tight wooded trail to your campsite then you may run into some problems.



Remove the sides of the rear rack and you are able to install the saw lock and the bucket/jug holder. For camping we placed a large Coleman water jug in the bucket holder. Around the farm it works very nicely for buckets to carry just about anything. The Chain Saw lock was just the ticket for our trip because there were still a lot of downed trees across the trail, so not only did it get used for firewood but we also used it to make sure we could get to our camping spot in the first place. There are a couple different ways the saw holder can go together so that it fits closer to the ATV and does not stick out too far. Similar to the front accessories, the bucket holder adds quite a bit of width to your ATV.



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Last but not least was the expansion table. The back comes off the MRP rack then the expansion table slides right in. With the table folded up we were able to stack and tie down extra camping equipment on top of the table. The ends do not stick out past the sides when folded, so trees are not much of a problem there. Unfolded the table gives you lots of room to work on when preparing meals. We really like the expansion table.

About the Arctic Cat Automatic 400 4x4

Despite the cool tools we loaded it down with, we were disappointed with the power output on the 400 Automatic. We understand it gets better after break-in and ours did seem to be doing better after about 200 miles, but compared to other 400 class machines, this powerplant is disappointing. I think I would go with the manual shift if I was going to buy a 400, otherwise go for the 500 at least to begin with. That said, it did go everywhere we asked it to - even loaded down - just not very quickly.

While the "go" was lacking, getting there was extremely comfortable. The fully independent suspension works great and surprised several test riders that came off other makes or models. Clearance over obstacles was more than sufficient, a key factor to look for when selecting an ATV for wooded trail riding.

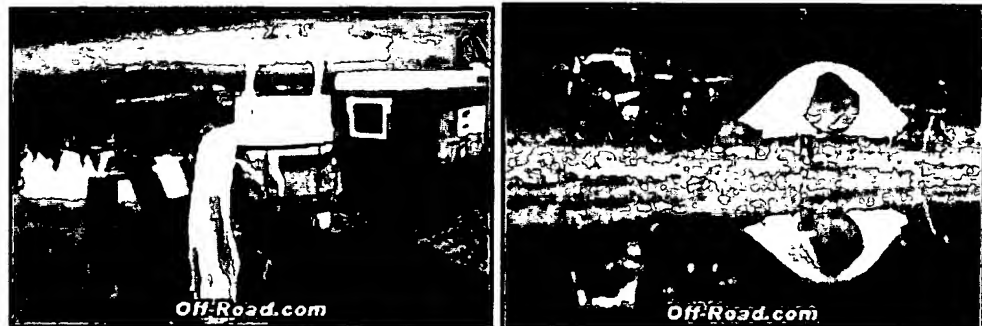
We weren't excited about the analog gauges but if you wait for a new 2004 model, you can get the digital gauges instead. Arctic Cat also has designed a very odd 4WD selector lever, which is engaged by pushing in a large flat lever with your foot - easy to engage with a simple stomp, but awkward to pull out to return to 2WD. It's purpose may be to force you to come to a complete stop when switching, and it does certainly do that.

Summary

We REALLY like the MRP system. The pins are sometimes a little tight to remove but the whole system is rattle-free and we believe it is better to be a little tight than rattling around as you go down the trail. Your racks will hold up better, and your gear will ride more securely. It is nice to have the MRP packages to show you what you can accomplish, but in general we think you may be better off to just choose the accessories that best fit your individual needs, and then put your own package together.

We are so sold on the idea and the design, I am not sure why anyone would buy a new Arctic Cat and NOT buy the MRP option.

MRP system Photo Gallery HERE



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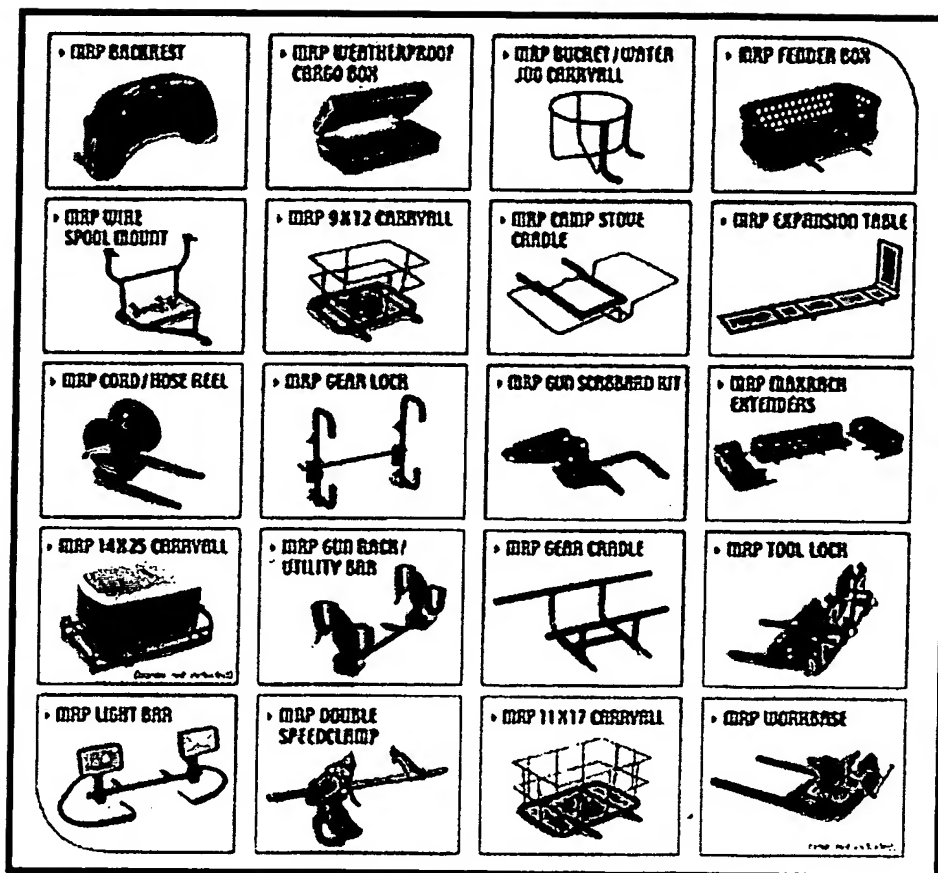
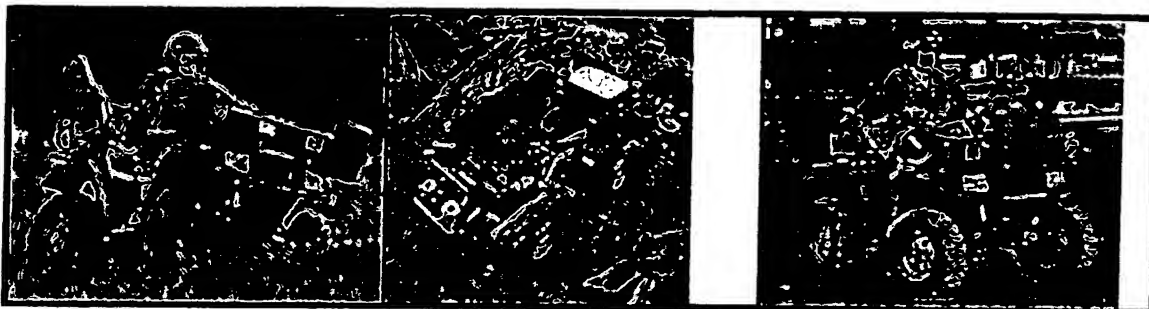
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Arctic Cat's New Multi-Rack Platform ATVs

500 4x4 Automatic MRP, 400 4x4 Automatic MRP

Arctic Cat's new MRP models are engineered with innovative open-channel racks both front and rear. A wide assortment of slide in accessory racks and specialty items are available that attach securely into the channeled racks with just a pin. Arctic Cat's industry first MRP offers you an exciting new way to own an ATV.



T 660 Turbo Touring

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